Oklahoma Chess Monthly

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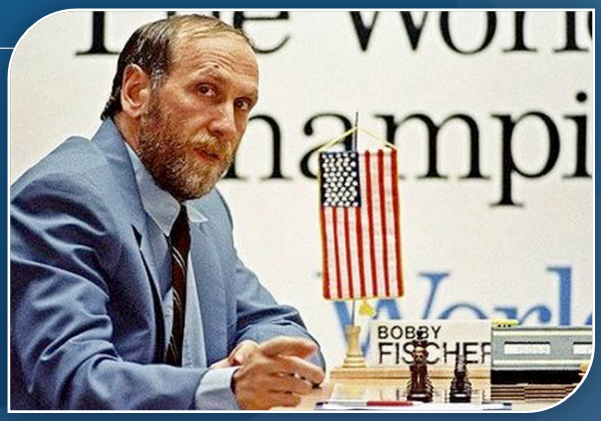
Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma



Bobby Fischer in 1992

In This Issue:

- Lou Hays on Bobby Fischer
- Red River Shootout XV
- Games from Recent Events
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

An exclusive inside look into Bobby Fischer's brief return to chess in 1992, featuring also an unpublished Fischer game, is our main feature this month. It is a long but fast read into his real motivations— and may surprise you!

Why Bobby Fischer Came Back

My Extraordinary Adventure with the World Chess Champion

By Lou Hays

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This article first appeared the June 2017 online issue of Oklahoma Chess Monthly.

Ed. Note — Lou Hays was a regular tournament chess competitor from 1973 to 1995 and a longtime member of the Dallas Chess Club, where he served several terms as president. He and his wife, Susan, hosted many famous players including Boris Spassky, David Bronstein, Yasser Seirawan, John Donaldson, Ronald Henley, Larry Christiansen, Anatoly Lein and Susan Polgar, who celebrated her 18th birthday at the Hays' home. He is the author / publisher of many books on the game of chess. He and his wife now live on the Illinois River near Park Hill, Oklahoma. (Lou received no payment for this article.)

INTRODUCTION

Bobby Fischer. The name itself was magical from 1956 through 1972, evoking terror from

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chess opponents and marvel from the public. His fame reached every corner of the earth in 1972, when he singlehandedly wrested the World Chess Championship from Boris Spassky. Fischer broke over two decades of Soviet ownership of the title and Cold War propaganda of communist superiority. Shortly after winning the title, however, he mysteriously disappeared into obscurity and didn't play chess again for twenty years.

In 1992 I was a witness to and participant in some of the key events that led to Fischer's decision to end his exile from chess.

The standard narrative is that he needed the money and a banker in Yugoslavia put up a $5 million prize with no strings attached. But these are only the surface facts of a deeper story about Fischer's motivations, a story I want to set straight here.

The truth is, he was inspired by a teenager.

Fischer was living in dire poverty early in 1992, but this had been the case for many years. Since 1972 he had made a habit of torpedoing proposed chess matches and product endorsements ("I don't use them," he would say) that could have brought him many millions of dollars. He had a brief change of heart early in 1992 and became willing to play chess again. This article gives an account of his thinking and activities leading up to the 1992 rematch with Boris Spassky.

I met with Bobby Fischer on two occasions for a total of five days in Pasadena, California, both times in the month of April 1992. I never saw him after that, but now and then he would call me, usually to ask for help locating chess books.

A friend and I provided Bobby with the funds to entertain Zita Rajcsanyi, a young Hungarian lady who, through letters and phone calls had earned his trust. Ultimately, Zita was responsible for inspiring his return to the board. Had she not come into his life when she did, he might well have died in poverty and oblivion in Los Angeles.

I made a record of these events on cassette tapes as they occurred. I subsequently put the tapes away and didn't listen to them for a quarter of a century. When you get into your seventies, it becomes more important to tell a meaningful story than to bother about who will or won't believe it.

IM John Donaldson's comment on "Why Bobby Fischer Came Back"

"Lou, this is a great article that offers a unique look at how the 1992 match came to be. You were a good friend to Bobby and it was impossible to anticipate how things would work out."

Tangible proof of my meetings with Fischer is fleeting, as he shunned photographs and autographs. His psychological state was such that I never wanted to risk losing his trust by asking for such things. He did give me a leather pocket chess set from Germany, but there is no proof it was from Fischer. I do, however, have a voice recording of Fischer leaving a message on my answering machine in June of 1992, just a month before the announcement of the 1992 Fischer – Spassky rematch. Fischer, in his inimitable voice, called to ask me to locate copies of the *Chess* and *British Chess Magazine* annuals for 1984 and 1985. He was cordial, offered to pay for the materials, and thanked me at the end of the message. Anybody can listen to this message by going to youtube.com and searching for "Voicemail from Bobby Fischer." I also have included the image of a note Fischer wrote to a friend of mine who met with him in Pasadena on April 29, 1992 as part of this story. Bobby's handwriting and signature are distinctive.

In the fall of 1972, Bobby Fischer, newly crowned world chess champion, was the most famous person on earth. No American

chess player before or since has achieved such a degree of international notoriety. Throughout the summer of 1972, Fischer's pre-match hysterics, antics, and demands made headlines all over the world. When he took the crown from the Soviet chess machine, the mass publicity that ensued prompted new chess players to sprout up all over the globe. Everywhere you looked, it was chess, chess, and more chess. New members flooded the United States Chess Federation. The Fischer era had begun.

Or had it? Shortly after the match, Bobby Fischer, to the shock and dismay of chess fans, disappeared from public view for almost twenty years.

I. The Beginning – 1989 - 1990

Like millions of others, I became fascinated with Bobby Fischer — and with chess — in 1972. My relationship with him happened much later, and entirely by accident. It started in 1989 when a client at my Dallas travel agency, Mark Robinson, walked in to pick up an airline ticket. Mark noticed the chess set I kept in the office, and told me he'd recently dined with Bobby Fischer.

The Bobby Fischer? Impossible. I didn't believe a word of it. Seventeen years had passed since Fischer's world championship victory. Questions about him and his whereabouts ran thick and fast in the chess community. Rumors had him holed up somewhere in Pasadena, but nobody was able find out anything about him. The only sign he was still alive was a $1 booklet he published in 1982 in which he described how the Pasadena police arrested and jailed him because he resembled a bank robbery suspect.

My client, Mark Robinson, was not a chess player, but he seemed honest and believable. He told me he had belonged to the Worldwide Church of God, the same church Fischer joined in the early 1970s and

Bob Ellsworth (left), a pivotal figure in Bobby Fischer's later life, with Mark Robinson, in 1992. Photo courtesy of Dianne Robinson

to which Fischer had donated a large portion of his prize winnings. Mark had a close friend, fellow church member Bob Ellsworth of Pasadena, who had been friendly with Fischer since the early 1970s.

Ellsworth was a non-chess playing businessman who helped take care of Fischer's business affairs and often lent him money. He and Fischer had dined together several times a month for many years. Robinson and Ellsworth both knew Fischer was a well-known chess celebrity, but at that time neither understood he was considered the strongest player in history.

I told Robinson I would love a chance to meet

Fischer. Over the next couple of years, he mentioned this to Ellsworth several times. The answer always seemed to be "Perhaps, but don't count on it." I soon learned that Fischer always charged a fee for meetings with strangers.

It wasn't until later that I learned how Fischer rationalized his meeting fees. He knew that if he met a person, that person would be able to say they met with Bobby Fischer — a tangible benefit. He said also he believed most of these people would have nothing to offer him in return, so it would be a one-sided arrangement unless he received financial compensation. Fischer was destitute in those years, surviving on part of his mother's social security check plus a few book royalties and whatever he could borrow from friends. By the time I met him, in 1992, his meeting fee was $5,000.

II. Getting Closer - 1991

In January of 1991 I started a chess publishing house. To my knowledge, no complete compilation of Fischer's games existed at that time, so that became one of several book projects I began researching. Mark Robinson and I had become friends, and in the fall of 1990 we had taken a trip with our wives to southern California. I met Bob Ellsworth, but Fischer was nowhere to be found that weekend—probably no accident.

I tried to keep the door open with Ellsworth over the following year, but by autumn 1991 any hope of contact with Fischer still seemed as remote as the day I first talked with Robinson. I was working hard on compiling Fischer's games for publication, and around Christmas of that year I completed a book called *My System – 21st Century Edition*. This book was a re-edit of a 75-year-old book by Aron Nimzowitsch, one of the world's top players in the early 20th century. I sent a copy to Ellsworth and asked him to give it to Fischer. Bobby was delighted with the gift, as he had been searching in vain for the old edition in libraries and bookstores around L.A.

III. Early 1992

I received a phone call from Bob Ellsworth one day early in 1992. He told me Fischer wanted to invite a young Hungarian lady, Zita Rajcsanyi, to visit him in Pasadena. A strong chess player herself, Zita had written several fan letters to Fischer. He was her hero, she wrote to him, and she wanted to come to California to see him. Fischer called her several times and eventually invited her to come. Now he needed money for her plane ticket and expenses.

My opportunity had come. In March, Ellsworth contacted me and said if I could come to Pasadena soon, Fischer would reduce his fee to half, or $2,500, plus the cost of a few chess books he wanted me to pick up at Ken Smith's Chess Digest warehouse in Dallas. I was a few months away from finishing my book of Fischer's games, and I reasoned that a one-time royalty payment of that amount would be justifiable. Also, Fischer wouldn't be able to say I had used his games to earn money without compensating him.

The situation was perfect. At Ellsworth's suggestion, he and I split the $1,200 cost for Zita's air ticket. She was set to arrive in Los Angeles the first week of April.

"Chess, like love, like music, has the power to make men happy." This quote from famous chess grandmaster Siegbert Tarrasch was about to apply to Bobby Fischer. He already loved pop music and chess. But in 1992, with Zita Rajcsanyi, he experienced true love for the first time in his life. His desire to become financially independent in order to forever make Zita part of his life gave him the final push to come out of retirement and play chess again.

"His desire to become financially independent in order to forever make Zita part of his life gave him the final push to come out of retirement and play chess again."

Fischer lived in a tiny apartment, smaller than the size of the master closet of a modern home. He traveled everywhere by metro bus. He often had to borrow money from Ellsworth just to keep his bills paid.

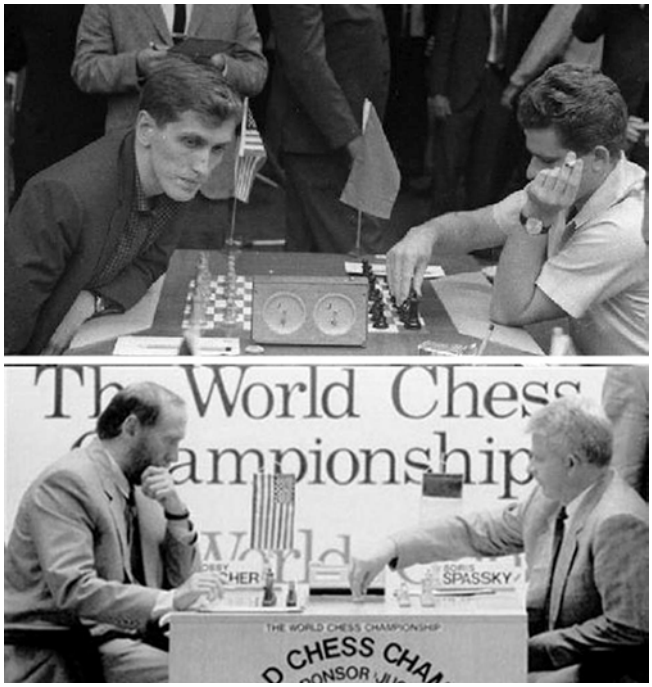
Ellsworth and I were talking regularly on the phone by this time. I outlined to him a plan that could earn Fischer millions of dollars in a short time. The two of us composed a letter to Fischer explaining that we would like to help him promote himself and make enough money to live comfortably for the rest of his life. Fischer was receptive to the letter, but nineteen and a half years of inactivity had left him unmotivated. He was in no state of mind to get busy doing anything, much less negotiating the terms of a high-stakes chess match.

First, we told Fischer he needed to drop his senseless meeting fees. A fee for meeting with him was fine for autograph seekers and chess fans, but the idea of a meeting fee for wealthy and influential people who could help him make a fortune was preposterous. Ellsworth and I suggested simultaneous chess exhibitions, TV and magazine interviews, and book publications, but the three of us ultimately agreed a high-stakes match was the simplest way for Bobby to acquire a fortune quickly.

But who would he play? Bobby immediately said Boris Spassky. The two had already spoken about playing a rematch a year or so earlier, but like always with Bobby in those days, it had been just talk.

Just before my visit to Pasadena, I sent Ellsworth a copy of a recently published book, *Karpov on Karpov,* to give to Fischer. Karpov had been named world chess champion after his 1975 match with Fischer fell apart over disagreements on the rules of play. In his book, Karpov had some nice things to say about Fischer and how he had elevated financial rewards for all top players. Ellsworth said he handed the book to Fischer one evening as they sat down to eat dinner. Fischer took one look at it then threw it aside as though he wasn't interested. But he kept glancing over at it, Ellsworth told me, until he finally picked it up and said, "I guess I'd better see what those 'blankety-blanks' are up to."

Zita arrived in California on Friday, April 3. She stayed at Ellsworth's condo, and Fischer began riding the bus back and forth from his tiny apartment every day to see her. Everything was about to change.



For comparison: the young Fischer playing Spassky in 1966, and the same players in a similar pose in 1992.

IV. The First Trip to Pasadena

On April 10, Ellsworth called and said I needed to get there as soon as possible. I was certain Fischer needed money to entertain Zita. I cancelled my plans to play in a chess tournament the following week and told Ellsworth I'd be there the following Friday. Two days later, Ellsworth faxed me a list of the books Fischer wanted from Chess Digest. Much of the material he wanted was about Karpov's and Kasparov's match games. I thought at the time that Fischer might be thinking of challenging one of them. Later I learned he wanted their games and analysis in order to prove to the world that all their games were

prearranged.

I got what I could find of the books Fischer wanted from Chess Digest and I arrived in California on April 17. I checked in at the Ritz-Carlton of Pasadena, just a few minutes from Ellsworth's condo. Ellsworth and Fischer agreed to meet me in the hotel bar at eight. I got there a few minutes early, ordered a Perrier, and nervously waited.

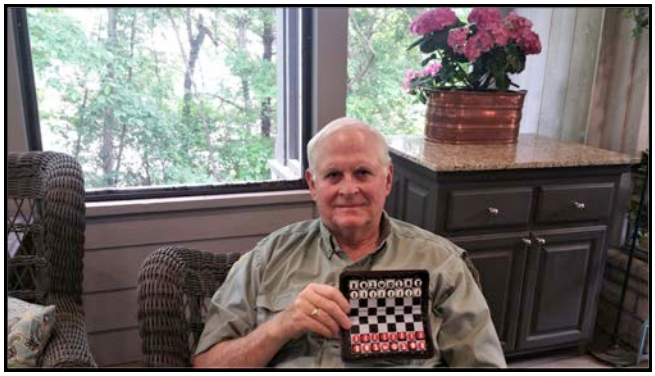
Ten minutes later, Ellsworth and Fischer arrived and made their way to my table. Fischer's appearance startled me. He didn't look anything like he had in 1972. He was balding, and he had a short beard and a middle-age spread. Both were wearing sport coats and Fischer had on a tie. After greeting me and shaking hands, Fischer ordered the bar's chicken teriyaki with pineapple appetizers and quesadillas. He drank a gin and tonic.

I took care of business first, reaching into my pocket and handing Bobby his fee. He thanked me and pulled out small leather chess set.

"This is for you," he said as he opened the set. "Lou, take a look at this."

The German travel set given by Fischer to the author.

He set up an opening position from the 1984 Karpov-Kasparov match and declared that the game had to have been prearranged, since by 1984 everybody already knew that in this position, such-and-such had been proven to be a bad move. It was difficult for me to see, particularly on such a small board in the bar's dim lighting. I nodded and tried to act interested, but I told him I was unfamiliar with that analysis.



The author at home in Oklahoma showing the travel set Fischer had given him.

We spent the next 45 minutes on small talk and Fischer finally asked me my chess rating. I told him I was a longtime expert and that I had started playing tournament chess after his 1972 match against Spassky. I mentioned I had played in the New York Open more than once. We discussed some of the New York players he knew and I told him I had won a game against his old friend Ariel Mengarini in the 1986 New York Open.

"Ah, yes, he exclaimed. "Mengarini. I should never have given him a draw in that position." He spoke as though the game had been played that same afternoon, not 35 years earlier.

Ellsworth had made us a nine o'clock dinner reservation. We had just started out the door of the bar when Bobby suddenly dashed back to the table to retrieve the chess set he had given me, which I had left on the table. As he walked back, I was struck by the fact that no patrons in the crowded bar recognized him. In his coat and tie he fit right in with the Ritz-Carlton crowd. Apparently he could travel anywhere in the Los Angeles area and never be recognized.

While Ellsworth went to pick up his car from the valet, Bobby and I headed to my room to get the chess books I had brought from Dallas. As we entered the room, he looked around and exclaimed, "Wow, these rooms are fantastic. I've never been in one before."

I got out the suitcase with his books and Bobby dug through them like a kid in a candy store. He had asked for some opening books,

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page

Two puzzles this month from the games of Bobby Fischer:

White to move and win (easy)

White to move and win. (Difficult)

but much of the material he wanted was on the 1984-1985 Kasparov-Karpov match games and analysis of these games. He began telling me again how these match games had all been prearranged and that he was going to prove it. It was nonsense, and eventually it became tiresome.

Before my trip, Bob Ellsworth warned me that Fischer loved to discuss his "enemies," all of whom he called Jews, whether they were Jewish or not. I discovered Fischer used the word "Jews" to describe anybody or anything he disliked, feared, or harbored jealousy toward. It was a reflexive mental tape that played over and over in his head. Ellsworth told me to ignore Fischer and just change the subject whenever he brought it up. This was strange to me, as Fischer was himself Jewish.

In his book *Chess Duels,* Yasser Seirawan describes how in 1992 he put the Kasparov – Karpov "prearranged games" question to Fischer. He asked Bobby how it might have worked with the Soviet authorities managing moves and sending runners to each player's hotel room the night before with the prearranged moves and desired result. It's a hilarious exchange, and Seirawan, grandmaster and chess champion himself, used perfect logic to neatly put Fischer's absurd theory in its place.

As we rode to the restaurant, Fischer suddenly asked me what I thought about Grandmaster Patrick Wolff. I said that I knew he was one of the strongest players in the country at that time. I remembered reading an article where Wolff said he had patterned his play after Fischer's. Perhaps Fischer had read this article, too.

Zita had arrived two weeks earlier, but she didn't join us that evening. The three of us went to a nice Italian restaurant. Ellsworth ordered wine, Fischer had another gin and tonic, and we had appetizers once again before enjoying a delicious meal.

As we ate, I mentioned Grandmaster Samuel Reshevsky, (many times U.S. Champion and one of Fischer's fiercest rivals), who had died two weeks earlier. Fischer became pensive,

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) Noticing that White's rooks and bishop on g3 aim at b8, we can see that 1. Rb8 would be mate were it not for the black rook protection on the back rank. So, we look for a way to deflect that rook, and find 1. Qxh6! Black can't capture because of mate on b8, and if he moves 1…Re8 then 2. Qxe6! wins.

(2) From the famous Fischer-Benko game in *My 60 Memorable Games*. White wants to play e4-e5 opening up a mate threat on h7. But for the moment black is ready to meet the immediate 1. e5 with 1…f5! (blocking the mate and attacking white's queen). But Fischer had already seen a beautiful way to prevent that defense: 1. Rf6!! If Black takes the Rook, then 2. e5 mates because the bishop blocks the f-pawn. Meanwhile 2. e5 and 2. Rxd6 are both threatened. Black tried 1… Kg8 2. e5 h6 (hoping to survive after 3. Rxh6 f5!) but Fischer just retreated with 3. Ne2. This at least wins the N on d6, since if it moves White mates with Qf5. Benko resigned.

and he hesitated before he spoke.

"You know," he said, "in the old days Sammy was the greatest American chess player, better even than Reuben Fine. He should have been World Champion. He was that good." I could tell from the seriousness and hint of sorrow in his voice that, despite their intense battles, Fischer had tremendous respect for Reshevsky.

I found out during this meal Bobby still considered himself the undefeated World Champion who had been blacklisted by the chess authorities. In his mind, these "authorities" had been conspiring to prevent him from playing and making any money since 1972. Here was a man who, without much effort could have made $15 to $20 million in a year or two. But his intransigence, his meeting fees, and his childlike fear that someone else might make a little money of their own by helping him had left him frustrated, angry and penniless. He got by on his mother's social security check and by borrowing two or three hundred dollars at a time in hopes that a royalty check might someday show up and bail him out.

"I *have* to find some way to make some real money," Bobby said to me several times. This was the Zita Rajcsanyi effect. Bobby Fischer was motivated.

After dinner, we went to Ellsworth's condo and I met Zita. She was a charming young lady. She spoke perfect English, and she was mature, polite, and proper in every way. She was also a

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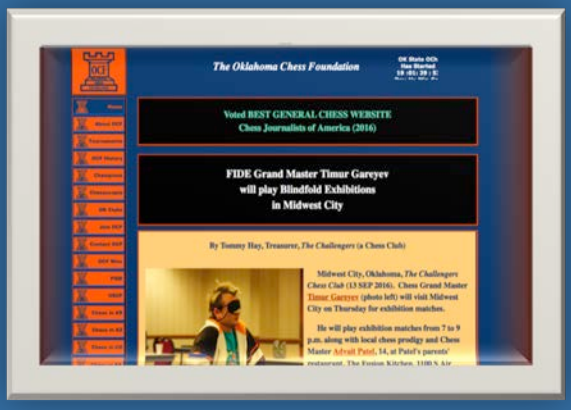

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> "I *have* to find some way to make some real money," Bobby said to me several times. This was the Zita Rajcsanyi effect. Bobby Fischer was motivated.

strong chess player, perhaps 2200 USCF.

Zita had been there for only two weeks, but it was obvious that Bobby already had feelings for her. He was protective and in Bob Ellsworth's condo they would sit close to each other with Bobby's arm around her.

Zita and I were settling in at the chessboard for a blitz session when Bobby suddenly went pale and exclaimed that he'd left his briefcase at the restaurant. Ellsworth had already warned me about Fischer's chronic absentmindedness. He told us to sit tight and play chess while he went back and found Fischer's valise stashed under the table where we had eaten.

Bobby had a Toshiba 386SX laptop that had been given to him by the U.S. Chess Federation. I told him at dinner that I had brought some programs to run on it for his enjoyment. His computer already had Chessbase (which he had never opened), a program called M-Chess, and another unusual program, the Bobby Fischer Increment Chess Clock, a software program somebody had written and placed on the laptop for him. As I remember, the shift keys served as timer buttons.

I loaded a text file of all of Fischer's chess games along with Chess Reader, a .pgn reader which he could use to play through all the games in any text file, including the file I had just given him. I also put on a chess-playing program called Zarkov.

Zita and I sat down to play using the new clock. Fischer first set it for four minutes with one second added per move. After a few games, he changed it to three minutes with two seconds added per move. Although these time controls are common today, in 1992 I had never played chess with a time increment. Zita and I played blitz chess for an hour or so.

"How do you like the clock?" Fischer kept asking me. "Do you like the idea of playing with increments?" I did like the new clock, but playing chess with Bobby Fischer looking on was an interesting experience, to say the least — something like practicing your new piano piece with Chopin sitting in the room. By then, it was almost three a.m. Dallas time — and I was exhausted.

As Ellsworth's car idled at the curb outside my hotel, I shook hands with Fischer, thanked him for the chess set, and told him how much I had enjoyed the evening. I wasn't scheduled to fly back to Dallas until Monday and I hoped I hadn't already used up my royalty money.

Ellsworth called and invited me back over at about one p.m. the next day. This time I drove my rental car. Bobby hadn't arrived yet, so Zita and I got out the clock and began another blitz session. Ellsworth had a meeting to go to for a couple of hours. Before he left, he told us he wanted to take us to a Cuban restaurant, La Havana, that evening at eight.

Bobby showed up later that afternoon. He wanted to take a walk to a local supermarket and buy oranges for Zita. As I walked with him, we passed a small church along the way. I dared to ask him what he thought of religion.

He shrugged. "I'm not into religion anymore," he said. He still had a bitter taste in his mouth from the Worldwide Church of God, which he had left many years earlier.

I later asked the same question of Zita, and she also said she wasn't religious. I asked her what she believed in.

"I believe in myself," she replied. I was beginning to believe in her, too.

When we got back from the store, Bobby wanted to play chess against the Zarkov program. I operated the computer as Bobby watched the screen and told me his moves. I was surprised when he began dictating the moves in the old descriptive chess notation. By 1992, most chess players and publications had changed to algebraic notation.

" 'How do you like the clock?' Fischer kept asking me. "Do you like the idea of playing with increments?" I did like the new clock, but playing chess with Bobby Fischer looking on was an interesting experience, to say the least…"

Bobby had no problem defeating the Zarkov program, which played at perhaps an 1800 level on his 386 laptop. The last game of the half dozen he played against Zarkov was automatically saved on the disk. It appears here for the first time. The game has no theoretical importance; it's only value is that it's a previously unpublished Bobby Fischer game. It is somewhat novel because Bobby gave up each of his bishops for a knight by the 16th move.

Zarkov played white with five minutes and Fischer had black with seven minutes, allowing two extra minutes for me to enter his moves. He moved quickly and time was never a factor in any of the games.

Zarkov – Bobby Fischer
[D00] April 18, 1992
Previously unpublished game against computer program, on a Toshiba 386SX
[Lou Hays]
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 g6 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 c6 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.a4 a5 11.Rfe1 Re8 12.Bg3

12. … e5
13.Qd1
"Lousy move." -- Fischer.
13...exd4 14.exd4 Qb6 15.Ne2 Nh5 16.Bd6 Bxd4 17.Nxd4 Qxd4 18.Rxe8+ Rxe8 19.c3 Qf6 20.Bc7 Ne5 21.Be2 Nf4 22.Bxa5 Qg5 23.Bg4 h5 24.g3 hxg4 25.gxf4 Qxf4 26.Bc7 Nf3+ 0-1

Bob Ellsworth had just returned from his meeting and was looking on as Bobby played. There were no flashy moves or startling tactical sacrifices, just Bobby Fischer chess, the simplest moves to win.

"This computer isn't showing me anything," Bobby said when it was clear his game was won. "Resign for it, Lou. I'm hungry. Let's go eat." The man loved good food.

Ellsworth, Bobby, Zita and I went to La Havana for dinner. Bobby had his usual appetizers, along with a gin and tonic. We discussed a high-stakes match and looking for a sponsor. Bobby seemed all in on the idea, as did Zita.

During the meal, I made the mistake of casually saying I believed Bobby's mom would be happy to see him playing chess again. Bobby seemed irritated that I had brought her into the conversation.

He turned red and looked at me. "What kind of comment is that?" he said. "*Of course* she wants somebody to play me." Fortunately, his anger dissipated quickly and we were back discussing a match.

After a hearty meal, we got back to Ellsworth's condo around ten. Ellsworth said he felt a cold coming on and went to bed. Zita and I played a few more blitz games using Fischer's clock, and then she said she wanted to retire.

Fischer and I stayed up and discussed the match. He said he would like to play in Los Angeles or Dallas. I mentioned Yasser Seirawan as a possible opponent. Yasser had been U.S. chess champion several times by 1992, and he was a popular and very well-

known grandmaster. Fischer claimed that Seirawan was Jewish. I told Fischer that Seirawan's father was Syrian and his mother was British. Fischer wasn't convinced. He claimed Seirawan was definitely Jewish, and just like Anatoly Karpov, had had facial surgery to hide it. It was more nonsense, but Bobby seemed to believe it.

Through my publishing business, I had become acquainted with Grandmaster Seirawan and International Master John Donaldson, associate editor with Seirawan at *Inside Chess* magazine. The two had been upcoming junior players at the peak of the Fischer era. When I told them that Bobby was talking about playing again they were ecstatic at the prospect.

Fischer gave me two reasons for rejecting the idea of playing Seirawan. First, he said he was unhappy that Seirawan had referred to him as The Great Ghost of Pasadena in an *Inside Chess* article. Second, he told me he'd had some California politician (I don't remember the name) fax a story on his new chess clock to *Inside Chess*. The magazine had only mentioned the clock in passing instead of running the full article.

I wondered if these were the genuine reasons Fischer wasn't interested in playing Seirawan, who at 32 years old was a world-class player in his prime. I can't predict who would have won the match, but Fischer was 49, obviously out of shape, and hadn't played a tournament game in almost twenty years. Boris Spassky was 55, and Fischer was certain he could beat him again. Besides, they were friends; Fischer trusted Spassky not to cross him.

So Fischer and Seirawan would not play one another, but the two would meet during Fischer's upcoming 1992 match with Spassky. Seirawan later wrote of the meeting:

"After September 23 [1992], I threw most of what I'd read about Fischer out of my head. Sheer garbage. Fischer is the most misunderstood, misquoted celebrity walking the face of the earth." He added that Fischer was not camera shy, smiled and laughed easily, was "a fine wit" and a "wholly enjoyable conversationalist."

Bobby and I had found some common ground in that we both loved the Spanish language. That weekend we had several conversations in Spanish. … He was also very funny, loved jokes, and liked to laugh in either Spanish or English. This was the Bobby Fischer I liked.

Yasser was right. That's the same Bobby Fischer I had come to know when I met him. Bobby and I had found some common ground in that we both loved the Spanish language. That weekend we had several conversations in Spanish. He was quite proficient and had a good working vocabulary. He was also very funny, loved jokes, and liked to laugh in either Spanish or English. This was the Bobby Fischer I liked.

But Fischer also had his dark side that Yasser didn't see.

Paranoia (noun) — A mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance, typically elaborated into an organized system. It may be an aspect of chronic personality disorder, of drug abuse, or of a serious condition such as schizophrenia in which the person loses touch with reality.

The above description from Webster's Dictionary, minus the drug abuse, fits the other Bobby Fischer of 1992, except Fischer symptoms would come and go without warning.

After the Seirawan discussion, Fischer wanted to look at some chess material. He picked up one of the books I had brought from Dallas. I sat at the board across from him as he set up

a position and played through a few moves. Then, staring intently at the board, he made another move or two and said, "Look at this position. Black can exchange here and this is forced, allowing this and this to force a queen ending. Black can easily win from there."

I don't remember what game it was and I didn't care. I just remember that watching Bobby Fischer analyze at the chessboard was a remarkable and unforgettable experience. We looked at another position for a few minutes and then **he** said he was ready for me to take him home. It was 1:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday.

We got into my rental car and Fischer immediately noticed the car phone under the console. I hadn't asked for the phone when I made the reservation, and I had no intention of using it. That was before the age of cell phones, back when car phones were rare and mystical products.

"Look," said Fischer, who loved electronic gadgets of all kinds, "There is even a slot where you can slide your credit card."

There was no traffic at that hour and I drove about 50 mph toward L.A. Bobby liked that. He said I'd live a long time if I kept driving so safely. In truth, I was trying to maximize the time I could spend visiting with him. He eventually directed me off the 110 freeway to the west, and we rambled back and forth through some dark streets until he finally pointed out his bus stop. It was around 2 a.m. and this was definitely not Beverly Hills.

Fischer instructed me to drive to a nearby alley where we could talk while we waited for his bus to arrive. We spoke about Spassky and about the rules of the match. Fischer insisted that the winner should be the first player to win 10 games, draws not counting. This, he asserted, was the only way to prove who really was the better player. I told him I fully agreed with the format.

When I realized I had no idea how to get back to the 110, I asked Fischer and got a blank stare. He didn't know. I don't believe he ever had a driver's license or drove a car.

Eventually the outline of his bus appeared a couple of blocks away. He started looking all over the car, patting his pockets, and grabbing the chess books and his briefcase. In fifteen seconds he loaded up, exited the car, and loped over to the bus stop. He looked back and nodded to me as he boarded the bus. It was surreal.

As his bus disappeared into the darkness, I wondered how this could be the same Bobby Fischer who had been the world's most famous person twenty years earlier, riding a city bus on his way to a small apartment that he didn't want me to see. Other than his chess memorabilia, he had no worldly possessions. I could barely get my mind around this sad spectacle. Mental illness, I thought, is no respecter of persons.

Late in the afternoon of Sunday, April 19, Fischer arrived at Ellsworth's condo and said he wanted to go back to La Havana for dinner.

"That place is dynamite!" he said. This was a word he used often. When we arrived, Bobby grabbed the one-page menu and started ordering everything in sight. Drinks, appetizers, fried bananas, main meal, and more.

After dinner, I excused myself to the men's room, while Zita, Bobby, and Ellsworth exited to the street. Ellsworth told me later that once they were outside, Fischer kept asking him how much he thought I would charge him for my help in setting up a match. Bobby never comprehended that my purpose wasn't to make money for myself. All I wanted was to work with him and try to bring him back to the chess world.

The magical weekend came to a close late that night. As I left Ellsworth's condo and said goodbye to Zita and Bobby, I asked him one last time to relent on his meeting fees, but he refused. This would make finding a sponsor for his match more difficult, but I told him I'd try.

V. Between Visits to Pasadena

The following week I contacted chess promoter John Carlson of the Intermark Group in Los Angeles. Carlson was reported to be a difficult man to reach, but the mention of Bobby Fischer 's name got me through to him immediately. He had to call me back, however, as he suddenly had to hang up and talk to World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov, who was calling him from Europe on another line. We discussed setting up a match, but when I said Fischer insisted on a fee even to talk to Carlson, he told me to forget it. Through Yasser Seirawan, I also spoke to Min Yee, a wealthy Microsoft executive. Yee didn't know me, but again the mention of Bobby Fischer immediately got me a meeting with him. All went fine until we got to the meeting fee. That ended Min Yee's interest.

Either of these men would have been able and willing to arrange a multi-million dollar match, but neither would acquiesce to Fischer's $5,000 fee to meet and discuss it. I didn't blame them. It was bad business, and one reason Bobby stayed broke for most of twenty years.

Fischer's paranoia manifested itself in other ways. For example, every time I spoke by phone with him, he first warned me to be careful what I said, since Israeli intelligence listened in on all his conversations. He needed therapy and medicine, but, being Bobby Fischer, he would never admit it or see a doctor.

VI. Second Trip, April 29-30, 1992

As the month wore on, Fischer needed more money to entertain Zita for the remainder of her stay. I told Ellsworth I had a chess friend I believed would be happy to pay a fee to meet with him. Fischer was, of course, extremely suspicious of any stranger and had Ellsworth call me back with numerous questions about him. I will call my friend by the pseudonym "Milos" here because he has reasons now to not have his name associated with Fischer — a reminder of Bobby's unkind legacy. He was a chess expert and a huge Fischer fan at the time.

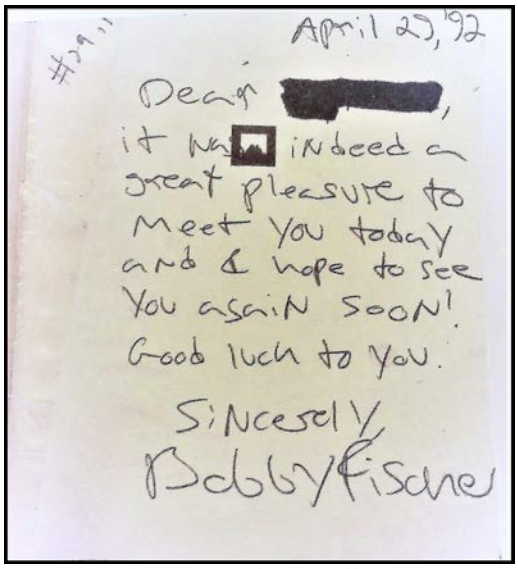
Either of these men would have been able and willing to arrange a multi-million dollar match, but neither would acquiesce to Fischer's $5,000 fee to meet and discuss it. I didn't blame them.

I made it clear to Bobby that Milos didn't belong to any conspiracy against him and would have no trouble coming up with the $5,000 meeting fee. He finally agreed, and I accompanied Milos to Pasadena on April 29.

I was certain Bobby would like Milos. As I expected, the two of them hit it off. Ellsworth picked us up at the Ritz-Carlton and we had dinner at the British Raaj Indian restaurant in Santa Monica.

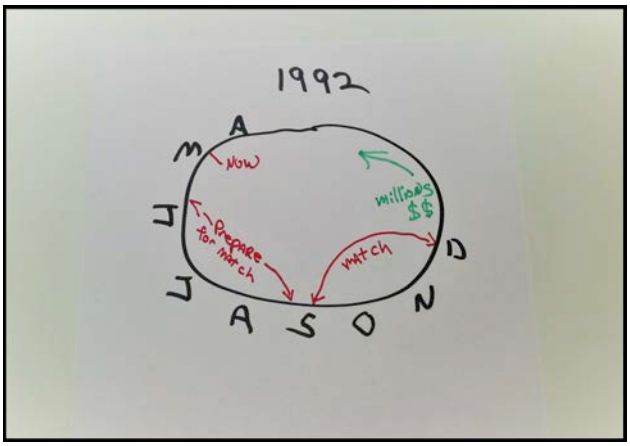
After dinner, Milos, Zita and I played more blitz chess on the increment clock with Bobby occasionally grimacing and asking, "Why did you play *that* move?

In his distinctive handwriting, Bobby autographed the inside page of Milos's copy of *My Sixty Memorable Games*, though it had other markings on the page, as you can see.



The autograph for "Milos."

Between my visits to Pasadena, I handmade a 1992 calendar for Bobby. My hope was that a spatial thinker like Fischer would be able to see on a simple, circular calendar what he couldn't seem to grasp just talking about future events. The calendar was as crudely made as the one you see below, running from April through December. I marked four important points: 1) Now 2) Preparing for the match 3) Playing the match itself, and 4) Being wealthy by December. I handed him the calendar and told him if he stayed focused on it, he had everything he needed to duplicate the year as shown.



Crude visual-cue circular calendar the author gave to Fischer to help him visualize the match potential.

Bobby may have thrown my calendar in the trash that very night, or he might have used it to keep his mind fixated on what he was about to accomplish. I'll never know, but I hoped it would create a clear and positive picture in his mind.

VII. June-July 1992

After the quick trip to Pasadena with my friend Milos, I never saw Bobby in the flesh again. I spoke with him a couple of times on the telephone, and in June he left the message on my answering machine that can be heard on youtube.com.

Although I didn't know it, by June he was already in negotiations for a $5 million match with Spassky, thanks to another fortuitious feat by the remarkable Zita Rajcsanyi (detailed below). On July 25, I got a call from my friend, national chess master Mike Richards. He told me to buy a copy of the *New York Times* ASAP. He read the headline to me: "Fischer and Spassky Said to Sign for Chess Rematch in Yugoslavia."

I was surprised, but only mildly so. Despite the demons in his head, Bobby Fischer was going to play chess again and make his millions.

EPILOG

At the end of the 1992 Fischer-Spassky rematch, I received an urgent call from Joan Targ, Bobby's sister in California. Bobby knew I was publishing a book on the match and that I had hired grandmaster Leonid Shamkovich as game analyst. Bobby wanted to see a draft immediately. I told Joan the book wasn't yet fully proofread, but she insisted that I print a copy of whatever I had and overnight it to her. A couple of days later a spiral bound copy was in her hands and on its way to Bobby.

Mark Robinson, my travel agency client and later dear friend, who first mentioned having dinner with Bobby Fischer, tragically died of heart failure in 2009 while still in his fifties.

Bob Ellsworth, Bobby's close friend and confidant for twenty years, accidentally failed to pay the rent on Bobby's storage locker a few years after the rematch, causing Bobby to lose a large portion of his memorabilia. Bekins Storage put the contents of the locker up for auction to recoup the lost rent. Ellsworth was shocked when he realized what had happened. He told me he had paid the bill in advance once every few months for many years. The storage locker company changed hands and somehow his billing address was lost or the billing changed to monthly. By the time Ellsworth realized the mistake, it was too late, and the auction had already taken place. Ellsworth spent about $8,000 of his own money to buy back many of the items, but much of it was lost.

The opening banquet of the 1992 Fischer-Spassky rematch, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.
Zita Rajcsanyi is seated on the right side of the table (in red) next to Bobby Fischer. (Internet photo).

Fischer was furious over the loss for the rest of his life, and sadly, Ellsworth became *persona non-grata*, part of the conspiracy against Bobby Fischer.

The last time I spoke with Ellsworth was right after Bobby's death in 2008. As I wrote this story, I tried unsuccessfully for several months to locate him in hopes of rehashing details. The last I heard, he was living overseas.

Zita Rajcsanyi should be credited more than any other person for the chess revival of Bobby Fischer and the match of 1992. She inspired him and added a new dimension to his life at just the right moment.

When Zita returned to Hungary in May of 1992, Bobby trusted her with a letter of intent to seek a sponsor for a high-stakes chess match. Through her chess connections she located organizer Janos Kubat, who in turn found Jezdimir Vasiljevic, a banker who provided $5 million to sponsor the match. It was announced barely two months after she left Pasadena. Quite an accomplishment for a teenager.

Zita didn't reciprocate Fischer's romantic feelings. Reportedly she eventually gave up chess, got married, had kids, and moved to New Zealand.

Bobby Fischer earned $3.65 million for winning the 1992 match against Spassky. By playing in Yugoslavia he violated a U.N. embargo on commercial activity in that country. He paid no taxes to the U.S. government from his winnings and never returned to this country. Before the match started, the U.S. government sent Fischer a letter threatening a $250,000 fine and ten

years' imprisonment for playing chess in a country under sanctions (Boris Spassky received no such treatment). At a press conference a day before the match started, Fischer publicly spat on the letter in defiance, saying, "That is my reply."

Fischer spent the next dozen years living in Yugoslavia, Hungary, Japan and the Philippines. His anti-U.S. and anti-Jewish rants became more vicious as the years went by. His already-damaged legacy was wholly destroyed when on 9/11 he openly rejoiced, saying on the Bombo Radyo station in Baguio City, Philippines, that the U.S. had gotten what it deserved. As always, he blamed the Jews. This and subsequent radio broadcasts from this station were posted online and Fischer's odious rants were heard all over the world.

In July of 2004 Fischer was arrested and jailed at the Narita airport in Tokyo for trying to board an airplane with a revoked U.S. passport. He remained incarcerated in Japan for approximately nine months. After much legal wrangling, Iceland granted him full citizenship rights. He was released from jail and flown directly to Reykjavik in March of 2005, where he lived until his death from kidney failure on January 17, 2008. He was 64.

On September 6, 2004, while imprisoned in Japan, Fischer married his longtime friend, Miyoko Watai, chess player and official in the Japanese Chess Association. He had known Watai since the 1970s. He left no will or trust. Watai, after a court fight, was awarded the remainder his estate, reportedly around $2 million (before U.S. taxes). A middle-of-the-night exhumation to extract Fischer 's DNA was required to verify that he was not the father of a Filipino child whose family had made a claim to his estate.

Many years ago, I discussed Bobby's mental condition with Dr. Kay Hale, a psychologist and chess friend from Dallas. After listening to my anecdotes, Hale told me he believed Bobby would never seek treatment and that his paranoia would continue to worsen with time. This, in turn, would lead to a stressful existence, and he predicted Bobby would die at a relatively young age. How prophetic Dr. Hale was.

Over the past twenty-five years, I have often wondered how Bobby Fischer's life would have unfolded if Mark Robinson had never entered my travel office, if Bob Ellsworth and I hadn't provided the funds for Zita's ticket to California, and if Milos and I hadn't financed Fischer during Zita's California visit.

Perhaps he would have found other patrons, but I cannot imagine how. Zita was writing to him, I was in contact with Bob Ellsworth, I was publishing a book on his games, and I knew Boris Spassky. The stars were aligned.

The grim probability is that Bobby Fischer would have died alone and impoverished in his tiny apartment in west Los Angeles. But is that better or worse than what eventually happened?

He would not have fallen in love. He would not have played another chess match, and he would not have acquired his millions. The amazing story of his winning the world chess championship at the height of the Cold War in 1972 would have been his enduring legacy. To the general public, he was a former World Champion and curiosity. To those of us in the dedicated chess community, Bobby Fischer would have been remembered as the greatest player ever, but also a flawed and fallen superhero.

Nowadays, I look back at 1992 with some degree of remorse, seeing the devastation Fischer ultimately brought to his reputation and to himself as a human being. It was a grand and exciting adventure, but in view of how Bobby Fischer's life and legacy turned out, if I had the opportunity to do it all over again, I wouldn't.

FRANK K. BERRY MEMORIAL

The FKB Memorial was held Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-28, in Tulsa. With four NMs and five experts heading a strong hard-fought tournament.

It was won by NM Sergey Galant, who not only came out of semi-retirement to honor Frank but proceeded to play great chess with a 4½ score, but also raised his rating back over 2200. Second place was Kansas NM Luidmila Mokriak, among 26 players. The top U2100 prize went to Shaun Graham-Bowcaster (3½), and the top U1900 prize went to Sho Glashauser (2½), a talented youngster from Topeka, KS.

The U1700 Reserve Section had 24 players and was won by Danial Smith of Tulsa, also with 4½ points. Clear second went to CJ Armenta (4) from Kansas City. Ricardo Rivera, from Arkansas, scored 3½ to win the U1400 top prize, and the U1100/unr prize was shared by Chris Amburgy and the unrated player Cason Wilson.

TDs were Tom Braunlich and Jim Berry.

We will have crosstables and a full report on the tournament with annotated games next issue.

AURELIO GONZALEZ JR

Popular North Texas player Aurelio "Frank" Gonzalez Jr., died May 11, 2017. We will have a tribute to him next issue.

Last round top boards:

Front: Galant (left) vs David Zelnick.

Back: Mokriak (left) vs Howard Zhong.

Tournament Reports

RED RIVER SHOOTOUT XV

Annual Texas – Oklahoma Team Match

Oklahoma Wins 15-13

Three-PEAT!

Oklahoma Whips Texas, 15-13

By Jim Hollingsworth, RRSO Chief TD

(Davis, OK. 29 April 2017) — Defending 'World and Red River Champion,' the Oklahoma Chess Team, beat Texas, 15-13, in the 15th Red River Shootout (RRSO XV), the annual team match between the most fanatical chess players in both states. This was Joe Dean Veal's first victory as the new Oklahoma Chess Team Captain.

(See crosstable, next page)

The match featured a see-saw battle with a dramatic finish. The host team Oklahoma quickly charged ahead by 4 points in the first round. However, Texas, playing with the white pieces, roared back to tie at 6. Then Oklahoma scored for a 7-6 lead. Returning Texan Carmen Chairez and Oklahoma legend Bruce Wells, in what has to be the longest game in RRSO history, battled to a draw.

That gave the Okies a 7½ - 6½ halftime lead.

Early in the second half, Texas surged ahead 9½ - 7½. Things were looking good for the Texans and the hotel staff started chilling champagne in the Texas locker room. But, the Okies battled back to tie the score at 10½. From there it was a tight battle until the score was knotted at 13, with two games left. Under the match rules Oklahoma only needed 14 points to tie, retain the title, and win the new Frank Kim Berry RRSO Trophy. Two tense games still remained. Latino – Adams and Hatcher – Gonzalez.

Finally, that epic 14th point for Oklahoma came, thanks to Carl Latino's powerful endgame finish, on Board 6.

Tarrant County Chess Club (TCCC) President Tom Crane walked over and congratulated OCF President Jim Berry and Oklahoma Team Captain Joe Dean Veal. Then, all quickly gathered around Board 4 and watched the final contest. About five minutes later, Wayne Hatcher won a nail biter over Texas legend Aurelio Gonzales for Oklahoma's final point in the 15-13 victory.

RRSO XV

April 29, 2017

Davis, Oklahoma, USA

Jim Hollingsworth, Chief TD

Texas						Oklahoma				
13.0	Pre	Post	Last	First	Bd	Last	First	Pre	Post	15.0
2.0	1986	2017	BOCHENKOVA	AZZAMA	1	VEAL	JOE DEAN	2071	2048	0.0
1.5	1911	1928	PENNINGTON	FRED	2	NICHOLS	TOM	1959	1943	0.5
0.0	1890	1866	HORVATH	ANDRAS	3	ZACHARE	LOGAN	1926	1949	2.0
0.0	1888	1862	GONZALEZ	AURELIO	4	HATCHER	WAYNE	1905	1930	2.0
1.0	1850	1853	FIORINI	PHILLIP	5	BERRY	JIM	1891	1888	1.0
0.0	1819	1800	ADAMS	FRANK	6	LATINO	CARL	1839	1866	2.0
0.5	1791	1777	DOWLEN	KENDALL	7	TUBBS	MIKE	1800	1814	1.5
1.0	1788	1776	GRABER	ZACHARY	8	CRAM	ROY	1641	1655	1.0
1.5	1788	1784	CHAIREZ	CARMEN	9	WELLS	BRUCE	1534	1539	0.5
1.0	1700	1700	DUNN	DANNY	10	WINSLOW	DONALD	1536	1553	1.0
1.0	1649	1635	RODGERS	AUBREY	11	ELLIS	JARED	1500	1516	1.0
1.0	1634	1622	HEISE	RUSS	12	WELLS	RUBIN	1500	1514	1.0
0.5	1607	1607	SCHWETKE	DOUG	13	STONEHOCKER	SHANE	1365	1413	1.5
2.0	1523	1533	CRANE	TOM	14	STEGALL	PHIL	1183	1170	0.0

2017 Oklahoma Chess Team

Photo by Danny Dunn

Marathon game at the end of round 1 between Carmen Chairez and Bruce Wells. See page 21 for the game.

All participants gave a moment of silence to remember the late Frank Kim Berry, who directed and played in thirteen of the fifteen RRSO's. In honor of his memory, the new Frank Kim Berry RRSO Trophy was also unveiled (far right in the photo). The trophy's cost was fully covered by generous contributions from several players. Their names will be recorded on the RRSO website (http://rrsochess.net). (Photo by Danny Dunn).

Carl Latino won the 14th point to ice the victory for Oklahoma. Photo Danny Dunn.

Three Oklahoma standouts, Logan Zachary, Carl Latino and Wayne Hatcher, "aced" their Texas opponents with 2-0 sweeps.

The FIDE Connection

After the match, chess analyst Victor Yaward said he felt Texas should have won and theorized why that didn't happen.

> *"Texas went into this match with an 84-point average ratings advantage. This was especially huge on the bottom seven boards (204 average ratings point surplus). Texas won those boards by a combined 8 to 6 score. The top half, however, featured an Oklahoma team with extensive international experience. Five of the top seven Okies have FIDE ratings. Three of them scored 2-0 sweeps (Boards 3, 4 and 6). The Okies overwhelmed the Texans, on the top seven boards, by a combined 9 to 5 score. This made all the difference in the world for RRSO XV. I think this all reflects well on the Oklahoma Chess Foundation because of the large number of FIDE tournaments they sponsor."*

Jim Hollingsworth directed this historic event. He was capably assisted by two Oklahoma experts: Jim Berry and Joe Dean Veal. He was also assisted by Texans Tom Crane and Chris Wood. Texan Adam Hart was Sergeant at Arms. Another Oklahoma veteran, Mike Tubbs, was the official RRSO Scribe. Three Texans contributed some exemplary photos: Danny and Alex Horvath, and Tom Crane. Some of their photos are included in this article. Both the OCF and RRSO websites will

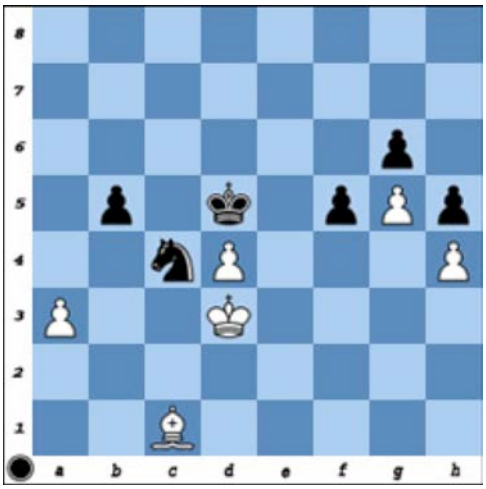
soon include a huge montage of their work.

As all serious chess players know, the REAL Red River Shootout is a series of annual team matches between the most fanatical chess players in Oklahoma and Texas. Texas leads the series 9 to 6, but mighty Oklahoma keeps the title and bragging rights for one more year. Next year's match is already scheduled for April 21, 2018, in Davis, Oklahoma. Recruiting season starts next January. More information will be available on the OCF website, the RRSO website and in outstanding chess publications such as the *Oklahoma Chess Monthly*.

Wayne Hatcher (OK) left vs. Aurelio Gonzalez (TX), who passed away shortly after this event.

Selected games from this event follow, including the "Game of the Month"…

Chairez,Carmen (1788) –
Wells,Bruce (1554)
RRSO XV Davis, Oklahoma (1.9), 29.04.2017
[B27] *[TB]*

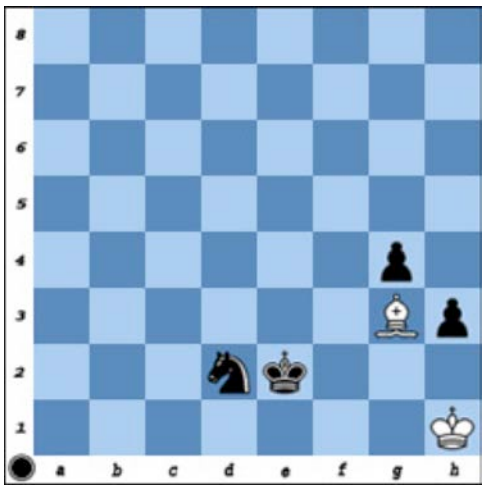


The marathon round one game featured a well-played ending, where Bruce Wells nursed a good knight vs bad bishop position to the edge of a well-deserved win … only to let it slip, leading to an educational draw.

77…f4 78.Bxf4 Nxa3 79.Bd2 Nc4 80.Bc3 Nd6 81.Be1 Nf5 82.Bf2 b4 83.Be1 Nxd4 [83…b3!] 84.Bxb4 Nf5 85.Be1 Ke5 86.Bc3+ Kf4 87.Ke2 Kg4 88.Ba5 Kxh4 89.Bd8 Kg4 90.Kf2 h4 91.Kg2 Ng7 92.Bf6 Ne6 93.Be7 Nxg5 94.Kh2 Nf3+ 95.Kh1 h3 96.Bd6 Kh4 97.Be7+ Kg4 98.Bd6 Ne1 99.Kh2 g5 100.Bc7 Nf3+ 101.Kh1 Kf5 102.Bd6 g4

Stalemate possibilities abound so black has to be careful.

103.Bc7 Ke4 104.Bf4 Kd3 105.Bg3 Ke2 106.Bf2 Nd2 107.Bg3



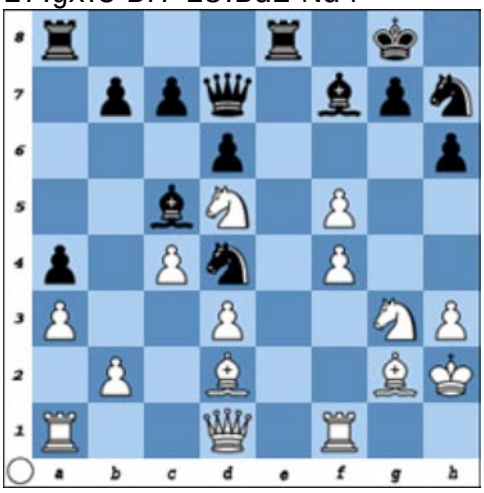
107…Kf1

[107…Nf1! 108.Bc7 Kf3 intending …g3 should win, for example: 109.Kg1 g3 110.Bxg3 Kxg3 111.Kh1 Nh2 112.Kg1 Ng4 113.Kh1 Nf2+ 114.Kg1 h2+]

108.Bd6 Ne4 109.Bc7 Kf2 110.Kh2 Ng5 111.Bd6 Nf3+ 112.Kh1 Nh4 113.Kh2 Nf5 114.Bc7 Kf1 115.Be5 Kf2 116.Bc7 Ne3 [Note that 116…g3+ 117.Bxg3+ Nxg3

118.Kxh3 draws. This is the difficulty Black is having in winning; how to push the g-pawn without allowing sacs or stalemates.] 117.Bg3+ Kf3 118.Bc7 Nf1+ 119.Kg1 h2+? [Unfortunate after all this good work. 119...g3 wins, as in the line give on move 107. 120.Kh1 *(120.Kxf1 h2!)* 120...g2+ 121.Kg1 h2+ 122.Bxh2 Nxh2 123.Kxh2 Kf2] 120.Kh1! Now it is a draw. 120...g3 121.Bxg3 Kxg3 Stalemate. ½ - ½

Veal,Joe Dean (2071) -
Bochenkova,Azzama (1986)
RRSO XV Davis, Oklahoma (2.1), 29.04.2017
[A25] *[TB]*
1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.Nc3 Bc5 5.a3 a5 6.e3 0-0 7.Nge2 Re8 8.d3 d6 9.h3 h6 10.0-0 Bf5 11.g4 Bg6 12.Ng3 Qd7 13.Kh2 Nh7 14.Nd5 a4 15.f4 exf4 16.exf4 f5 17.gxf5 Bf7 18.Bd2 Nd4

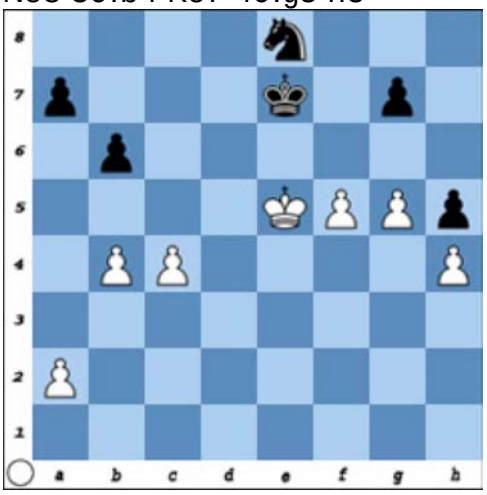


19.Qg4
[Suprisingly this natural move turns out to be a mistake. Instead 19.f6 would disrupt black's kingside and keep a good fight going.
19...gxf6 20.Qg4+ Qxg4 21.hxg4 is a very favorable ending for white.;
Or the key line apparently would be 19.f6 c6!? 20.Ne7+ would have avoided the passively placed position Joe gets by having to retreat this knight to c3 in the game, and instead allow an interesting piece sac: 20...Kf8 21.fxg7+ Kxe7 22.Re1+ Kd8 23.Rxe8+ Qxe8 24.Qg4 and white has two pawns and an initiative for the piece, although my computer says it is equal. But in a human game I think white would have good chances. The pawn on h6 will soon fall, moves like Be4 and f5/Bf4 are coming...] 19...c6 20.Nc3 Nf6 21.Qh4 Nxf5 22.Nxf5 Qxf5 23.Ne4 Nxe4 24.Bxe4 Rxe4 An obvious positional exchange sac, but a good one. 25.dxe4 Qxe4 26.Qe1 Qxc4 27.Rc1 Qb5 28.Qd1 [28.Bc3 Re8 29.Qg3 Re2+ 30.Kh1 Bd5+] 28...Bh5! [28...Re8 29.Re1 Rxe1 30.Qxe1 Qxb2 wins.] 29.Qc2 Qe2+ 30.Kg3 Re8 31.Rce1 [White's problem is that even endgames are bad for him... 31.Qc4+ Bf7 32.Qxe2 Rxe2 33.Bc3 Bd5] 31...Re3+! 32.Kh4 g5+ 33.fxg5 Qg2? [I can only assume the players were in mutual time trouble and Bochenkova made a serious move-order mistake here. She had a forced mate in four beginning with 33...hxg5+ 34.Kxg5 Qg2+] 34.Qc4+? [34.Qf5 would have covered both mating squares on g5 and h3, and turned the tables, because 34...Rxh3+ 35.Qxh3 Qxg5+ fails to 36.Bxg5] 34...d5 35.Qf4 Qxh3# 0-1

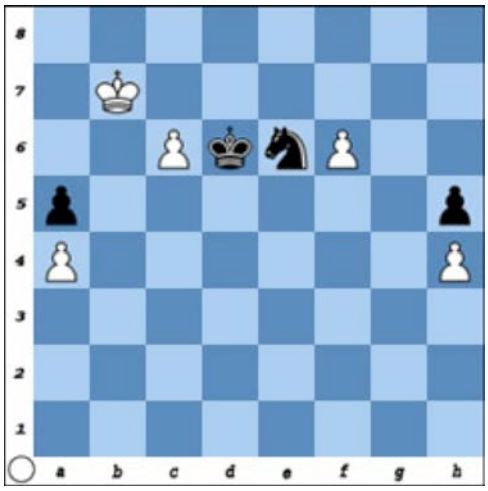
Crane,Tom (1556) –
Stegall,Phil (1247)
RRSO XV Davis, Oklahoma (1.14), 29.04.2017
[B33] *[TB]*
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 Qa5 7.f3 a6 8.Nd6+ Bxd6 9.Qxd6 Nd4 10.Bd2 Qd8 11.0-0-0 b5 12.Qxe5+ Ne6 13.Nd5 d6 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.Qxd6 Qd8 16.Qxd8+ Nxd8 17.Bc3 0-0 18.h4 Nc6 19.b3 b4 20.Bb2 a5 21.Bc4 a4 22.Bd5 Bb7 23.g4 axb3 24.Bxb3 Na5 25.Bd5 Bxd5 26.exd5 Nc4 27.Kb1 Ra5 28.Rd4 Ne3 29.d6 Rd8 30.Re1 Nd5 31.Re5 Nc3+ 32.Bxc3 Rxe5 33.Bxb4 Rd7 34.c4 Re2 35.c5 Ra7 36.a3 Re8 37.c6 Rd8 38.Bc5 Ra5 39.Bb6 Rb5+ 40.Rb4 Rxb4+ 41.axb4 Rxd6 42.c7 Rc6 43.Ba5 Kf8 44.b5 Rc4 45.Kb2 Ke8 46.Kb3 Rc5 47.Kb4 Rc1 48.b6 Kd7 49.Kb5 Rb1+ 50.Ka6 Kc8 51.f4 g6 52.Bc3 Rb3 53.Bd4 Rb4 54.Be5 f6? [After 54...h5 it's hard to see how white is going to break through.] 55.Bd6 [55.Bc3!] 55...Ra4+? 56.Kb5 Ra8 57.Be7+ñ f5 58.gxf5 gxf5 59.Kc6 Ra6 60.Bc5 h5 61.Kd6 Kb7 62.Ke6

Ra5 63.Bd6 Ra8 64.Kxf5 Kxb6 65.Be5 Kb7 66.Kg5 Ra5 67.Kxh5 Rxe5+ 68.fxe5 Kxc7 1-0

Latino,Carl (1839) –
Adams,Frank (1815)
RRSO XV Davis, Oklahoma (2.6), 29.04.2017
[A41] *[TB]*
1.d4 d6 2.f4 Nf6 3.e3 Nbd7 4.Bd3 c5 5.c3 cxd4 6.exd4 b6 7.Nf3 Bb7 8.0-0 e6 9.f5 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Ng5 Bc5+ 12.Kh1 0-0 13.Nd2 Be3 14.Nde4 Bxc1 15.Rxc1 h6 16.Nxf7 Rxf7 17.Nd6 Rf8 18.Nxb7 Qc7 19.Nd6 Kh7 20.Ne4 Rad8 21.Qe2 Nxe4 22.Bxe4 Nf6 23.g4 Qf7 24.b3 Rd6 25.Bc2 Rfd8 26.Rcd1 Qb7+ 27.Kg1 Qe7 28.c4 e4 29.Rxd6 Rxd6 30.Rd1 Qe5 31.Rxd6 Qxd6 32.Bxe4 Qd4+ 33.Kg2 Qxe4+ 34.Qxe4 Nxe4 35.h4 Kg8 36.Kf3 Nd6 37.Kf4 Kf7 38.Ke5 Ne8 39.b4 Ke7 40.g5 h5



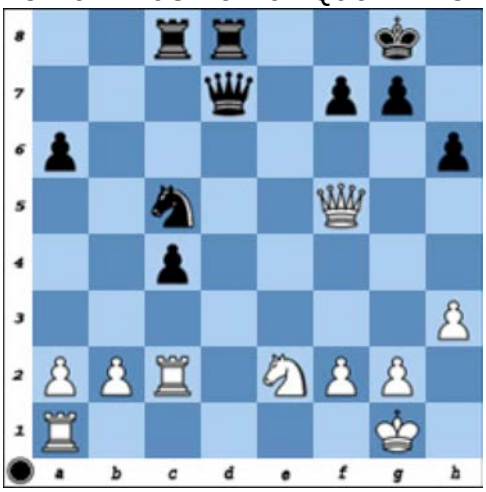
The key game that gave the Okie team the victory. White has only two pawns for the knight, but they are advanced and separated, and black's knight is corralled by the dominating white king and unable to find any active play.
The position is probably a draw, but hard to play for black who has to constantly watch out for breakthroughs on both sides of the board.
41.c5 bxc5 42.bxc5 Nc7 43.a4 Ne8 44.c6 a5 45.Kd5 Nc7+ 46.Kc5 Ne8 Only move. 47.Kb6 Kd6 48.Kb7 Nc7?
[One mistake and it's over. Black needed to go for a draw with 48...Ke5 49.c7 and now: 49...Nd6+! Possibly black overlooked this move, which will gain him an extra tempo on the above race: (49...Nxc7? 50.Kxc7 Kxf5 51.Kb6 Kg4 *(51...Ke6 52.Kxa5 Kd7* doesn't draw as white will gobble up black's kingside.*)* 52.Kxa5 Kxh4 53.Kb6 Kxg5 54.a5 and white wins the rook pawn race.) 50.Kc6! *(50.Kb8? Kxf5 51.c8Q+ Nxc8 52.Kxc8 Kg4* now it is black who wins the race and the game.*)* 50...Nc8 51.Kd7 *(51.f6? gxf6 52.g6 Ke6* wins for black.*)* 51...Nb6+ 52.Kc6 Nc8 53.Kb7 Nd6+ 54.Kc6 Draw.]
49.f6! gxf6 50.gxf6 [50.g6! is easier, i.e. 50...Ne8 51.c7 Nxc7 52.g7]
50...Ne6



51.Kb6!
The only move to win. Black is in zugzwang. Black would like to "pass" so that he could meet the move f7 with ...Ke7. But he has to move his knight now.
51...Nc7 52.f7 Nd5+ [52...Ne6 53.c7!] 53.Kxa5 Ke7 54.Ka6 Kxf7 55.Kb7 Kf6 56.a5 Kf5 57.a6 Nb4 58.c7 Nxa6 59.c8Q+ Kf4 60.Kxa6 1-0

Schwetke,Doug (1607) –
Stonehocker,Shane (1367)
RRSO XV Davis, Oklahoma (1.13), 29.04.2017
[D50] *[TB]*
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bg5 d5 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.Nge2 c6 8. 0-0 h6 9.Bh4 Be7 10.Qc2 e5 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Bb5 a6 14.Ba4 b5 15.Bb3 Bb7 16.Rfd1 Rc8 17.Qf5 Nc4 18.Bxc4 bxc4 19.e4 Nxe4 20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.Nxd5 Bxd5

22.Rxd5 Nc5 23.Re5 Qd6 24.Rd5 Qb6 25.Rd2 Rfd8 26.Rc2 Qd6 27.h3



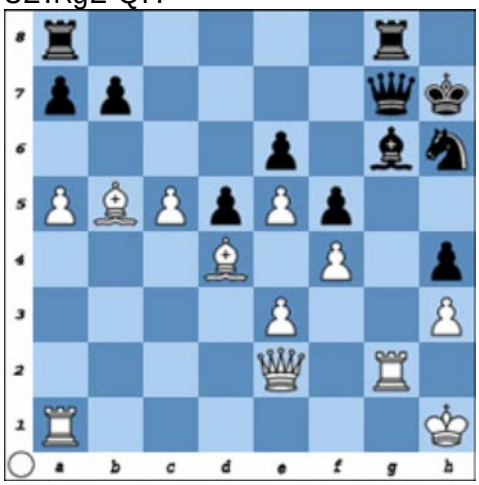
27...Qd3! 0-1

[Slightly premature resignation or loss on time here, but black is winning after 28.Ng3 g6 29.Qxd3 cxd3 30.Rd2 f5!]

Winslow,Donald (1536) –
Dunn,Danny (1788)
RRSO XV Davis, Oklahoma (2.10), 29.04.2017
[A21] *[TB]*
1.g3 e5 2.c4 f5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Nf3 d6 6.d3 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Qb3 Qc7 9.Rd1 Kh8 10.e4 fxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.dxe4 Nd7 13.h3 Nc5 14.Qc2 Bxh3 15.Bxh3 Rxf3 16.Bf5 Rf8 17.Qe2 R3xf5 18.exf5 Rxf5 19.b4 Ne6 20.Bb2 Ng5 21.Kg2 Qc8 22.Rac1 Rf3 23.Rh1 Bf6 24.Rh5

24...Qg4!
Threatening Rxg3 as well as the rook. 25.Rxh7+
[The best try was 25.Rch1 but 25...Rxg3+ 26.Kf1 Qf5 is winning for black.]
25...Kxh7 26.Qc2+ Ne4 27.Rf1 Kg8 28.Bc1 Nxg3 0-1

Roger,Aubrey (1649) –
Ellis,Jared (1500)
RRSO XV Davis, Oklahoma (1.11), 29.04.2017
[D04] *[TB]*
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 Nbd7 4.c4 c6 5.Nbd2 e6 6.b3 Bb4 7.Bb2 Ne4 8.Bd3 Ndf6 9.0-0 Qa5 10.Nb1 Bd6 11.c5 Be7 12.a3 0-0 13.b4 Qc7 14.Nbd2 h5 15.Qc2 Nxd2 16.Nxd2 Ng4 17.Nf3 f5 18.h3 Nh6 19.Ne5 Bf6 20.f3 Bxe5 21.dxe5 h4 22.f4 Qe7 23.Qe2 Bd7 24.Bd4 Be8 25.b5 g5 26.a4 g4 27.a5 Qg7 28.Kh1 gxh3?
Black is not ready for this key exchange. Threats on the g-file will tangle up his pieces. Instead he should try 28... cxb5, hoping White recaptures 29. Bxb5, when 29...Bxb5 30. Qxb5, a6! leaves the b-pawn weak, slows White's queenside play allowing black time on the g-file. However, white would have an instructive way to prevent this plan. After 28...cxb5 white should not recapture but instead play 29. a6! right away, ensuring the queenside will remain open, with advantage to white!
29.gxh3 cxb5 30.Rg1 Bg6 31.Bxb5 Kh7 32.Rg2 Qf7



33.a6!
The kind of move that wins chess games. White's c-pawn now becomes very strong.
... bxa6 34.Bxa6 Rg8 35.c6 Bh5 36.Qf2 Rg6 37.Bb7 Rag8 38.Rxg6 Qxg6 39.c7 Qg3 40.Qxg3 Rxg3 41.Ra2 Bf3+ 42.Kh2 1-0

June 10 — Challengers Tornado Classic — Moore, OK

4-SS; G/45d5, Four Sections: Open, U1600, U1200, U800. Regency Park Baptist Church, 2001 N Janeway Ave, Moore, OK. EF: $20. Reg: 8:00am-9:345am. Info: http://www.uschess.org/tlas/8032.tla

June 9-11 (or 10-11) — **Scarlet Chess Club 10th Anniversary Open** — Jonesboro AR

5-SS, G/90;d10. $5000 Guaranteed Prize Fund. 2906 A St., Jonesboro, AR 72401. Six sections, with 2-day and 3-day play options. 3 day option: Reg: Fri 5-6pm. Gm 1 6pm, merges with two-day option group for Gm 2. 2 day option: Reg: Sat 8-9am. Gm 1 9am, Gm 2 (merge with 3 day players) & 3 Saturday 1pm, 4pm. Games 4 and 5 Sunday 9am, 2pm. 6 sections: Open $750-$500-$250; U2000: $500-$250-$150; U1800: $500-$250-$150; U1600: $350-$150-$125; U1400: $350-$150-$125; U1200: $225-$125-$100. TD: Stephen Paulson EF: $85 on site ($75 adv by June 1). More info: famousctaylorinc@yahoo.com, phone (870) 897-1616.

June 24-25 — Oklahoma Open — Tulsa, OK

5-SS, Rds. 1-2 G/90 d5, Rds. 3-5 G/2 d5. Trade Winds Central Hotel, 3141 E Skelly Dr., Tulsa, 918-749-5561. Three Sections: Open, U1600, U1000. $$1500 (G); EF: $45 if rec'd by 6/19, otherwise $50, Booster $25. Reg.: 8:30-9:30am OCA Annual Membership Meeting Sunday 8am. More info: www.ochess.org.

July 22-23 2017 — **Kansas Open** — **Wichita KS**

5-SS; G/2;d5. Holiday Inn, 549 South Rock Rd., Wichita KS. EF$45 adv by July 15, $55 at door. Bughouse and Blitz tournaments Friday night 7/21. Three sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), Amateur (U1400) **Info:** Laurence Coker. Wlcoker7@hotmail.com Information website: http://www.kansaschess.org/htdocs/2017KansasOpenFlier2.pdf

Aug 5-6 — Missouri Open — **Kansas City MO**

5SS, G/120 d5. Unity Village Hotel, 1901 NW Blue Parkway, Unity Village, (Kansas City) MO. 888-377-0358. Prizes: b/50. Open: $500(G)-250 U2000 125, U1800 100 Reserve U1600: $200-100 $100 1st in D/E/U1000-Unr. Reg: 8:30-9:30 EF: $40 adv by 8/4. $50 cash on site. MCA mem required, Info: Randy Merrell, rwmerrell@gmail.com, 321-277-2751. MCA General Membership Meeting—9:30-10:15am Sunday. Additional info: https://goo.gl/E3SqGi.

Aug 18-20 — Arkansas State Championship — **Conway AR**

6-SS, Two Schedules. Pleasant Branch Baptist Church, 601 Spruce St., Conway, AR 72032. EF: $45 adv $50 at site. $$ (b/50) 1st $400, 2nd $200, A, B, C, D/E $200, Unrated $100. Info: Stephen Paulson, 238 Paulson Ln., Melbourne, AR 72556 (870-373-0150) d4d5c4@yahoo.com

Sep 2-3 — Jerry Spann Memorial — TBD

5SS, G/90+30. New location to be announced soon.

Adams, Frank (1815) –
Latino, Carl (1839)
RRSO XV Davis, Oklahoma (1.6), 29.04.2017
[B22]
[Notes by Tom Braunlich]

Veteran Carl Latino plays a challenging but risky line against the c3 Sicilian, grabbing a pawn. White misses a surprising way to take advantage of his better development, and suddenly the game is over. A very instructive game.

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4
[Some interesting stuff happens in the opening move order battle here. 5.Bc4 is the preferred theoretical move here I believe, with the continuation. 5...Nb6 6.Bb3 c4 7.Bc2 Qc7 8.Qe2 g5!?]
5...e6!?
[Hmmm. After White's 5. d4, almost everyone just plays 5...cxd4 in order to transpose back into the main line of the c3ñSicilian, which normally comes about with white playing d2-d4 on move 4, and after 4...cxd4 5. Nf3. However, here black in this move order does have the chance to try a rarely-played move that Carl tries here. 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Nc3 dxe5]
6.Bd3!?
[In the relatively few games in the database with 5...e6, 6.c4!? has more often been white's choice, chasing black's knights around with an unclear game that looks a lot like the Alekhine Defense lines, i.e.: 6...Ndb4 7.d5 exd5 8.cxd5 Nd4 9.Nxd4 cxd4 with an interesting game ahead.]
6...cxd4 7.cxd4 Qb6!?

Wow. All of the sudden black is going after pawns! This is highly risky, as black is neglecting development, and just like the similar position from the French Defense white can gambit the d-pawn now.
8.Be4!
[8.0-0 also looks like a good gambit, i.e. 8...Nxd4 9.Nc3 with compensation. 9...Nxf3+ 10.Qxf3 Nxc3 11.bxc3]

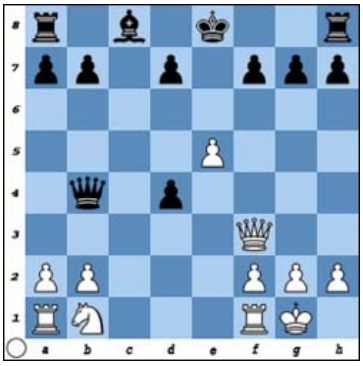
8...Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Nxd4 10.Bxd5 exd5
So Black has grabbed a pawn. Can he get away with it?
11.0-0!
[I was going to suggest instead 11.Nxd4 Qxd4 12.Bxb4 Qxb4+ 13.Nc3 as a reasonable form of gambit, but the computer likes black after 13...d4 14.a3 Qb6 15.Ne4 0-0 16.0-0 d5! 17.exd6 Bf5]
11...Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 d4

A crucial point in the game. So far the two

players have played uncompromisingly. Black has snarfed a pawn, but has been playing with only a few pieces. White has a lead in development. How to play it?
It turns out the method he tries in the game simply isn't good enough. Black soon catches up in development. But there is a very educational way for white to get the advantage here that is hard to see except in hindsight. See what you would do before moving on.

13.a3?

[Surprisingly, white can increase his advantage best by trading off black's only two active pieces, leaving him unable to hold the extra pawn, and this can be done by: 13.Bxb4! Qxb4 and now:



14.Qa3!
I find this an instructive move. Normally when down material you don't want to exchange queens and lessen your attacking power. But here, Black's Q is his only developed piece. Without his Q, black will have nothing, and is many moves away from getting his pieces out (look at the pathetic c8 bishop!). He will soon lose his extra d-pawn and remain dangerously undeveloped.
The game might go in one of two ways:

(A) 14...Qxa3 15.Nxa3 The d-pawn is obviously doomed, and white is threatening Nb5 too. 15...Ke7 16.Nb5 a6 17.Nd6! *(17.Nxd4 d6=)* 17...f6 18.f4 fxe5 19.fxe5 and black is obviously struggling to survive. Don't believe it? The computer gives this plausible continuation into a mating attack: 19...Ke6 20.Rad1 b5 21.Rxd4 Kxe5? 22.Rd3 Ke6 23.Re1+ Kf6 24.Ne8+ Kf7 25.Rf3+ Kg6 26.Rg3+ Kh6 27.Nxg7 Rf8 28.Re4 and mate next.)

(B) 14...a5!? might be black's best try, hoping to at least get an open file for his rook to come out; but it does make even more weaknesses. 15.Rd1 0-0 16.Qxb4 axb4 17.Rxd4 Ra5 18.Rxb4 Rxe5 19.Nc3 with a continuing edge in the endgame.

I can't take credit for seeing 15. Qa3! here. The computer pointed it out, amazingly enough. It lists other alternatives as being at best equal for white.

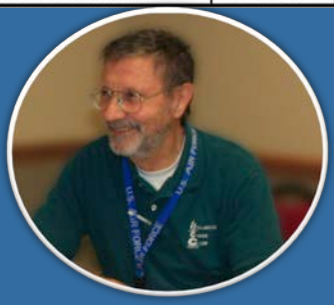
In the game, white's 14. a3 move is an error as it allows black to retreat and retain his dark-square bishop, which will prove its value when it helps to hold on to the important d-pawn.]

13...Be7 14.Qg4 0-0 15.b4
[15.Bh6? Qxh6]
15...d6! 16.Qg3 dxe5 17.Qxe5 Bf6
And thus the extra pawn is consolidated. Not only is it extra, but it is also very annoying to white, preventing Nc3 and any chances of getting play.
18.Qg3 Be6 19.Bg5 Qd8 20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.Nd2 [21.Qc7 Bd5] 21...Bd5 22.Rac1 Rac8!
Carl gives the opponent no chances and goes about the winning process of trading down to a won endgame. I've always thought Latino was an under-rated player. He has the scalps of many experts and masters and can play very strong chess at times. Adams' next move is a blunder prompted out of desperation.
23.Rc7?
[23.Rxc8 Rxc8 24.Qg4 Rd8 and it is only a matter of time before ...d3 happens followed either by ...Qc3 or a trade of queens to reach the won endgame. 25.Rc1 h6 26.Ne4 Bxe4 27.Qxe4 d3 28.g3 d2 29.Rd1 Qc3 etc.]
23...Rxc7 24.Qxc7 Qg5 25.Qg3 Qxd2
Winning a piece and the game.
26.Qe5 Bc4 27.Re1 f6 28.Qe7 Bf7 29.Qe2 Qxe2 30.Rxe2 Rc8 31.f3 d3 32.Rd2 Rc1+ 33.Kf2 Rc3 34.a4 Bb3 35.a5 Bc2 36.b5 Rb3 0-1

TOP 25

For JUNE 2017

Top 25 Active Oklahoma Players				
	Player	This Month	Change +/-	
1	Advait Patel	2485	8	
2	Daniel Ng	2273	0	
3	Howard Zhong	2235	-6	
4	Mark Hulsey	2221	0	
5	Tom Braunlich	2203	2	
6	Sergey Galant	2203	25	▲
7	Tom Amburn	2200	0	
8	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2178	0	
9	David Zelnick	2154	8	
10	Joshua Alexander	2142	0	
11	Jamal I. El Chamieh	2124	0	▲
12	Anthony Paolercio	2121	-9	
13	Ryan Farell	2089	0	
14	Chuck Johnson	2087	0	
15	John Cope	2084	-5	▼
16	Tom Patton	2080	0	
17	Veronika Zilajeva	2078	+21	▲
18	Michael Nugent	2077	-10	▼
19	James Tyner	2074	0	
20	David Luscomb	2068	0	
21	Charles D Unruh	2062	0	
22	Matt Dalthorp	2052	0	
23	Alan Islas	2024	0	
24	Joe Dean Veal	2021	-50	▼
25	Charles M Unruh	2005	0	



Player of the Month

CARL LATINO

The veteran class A player from Stillwater led the Okie RRSO team to victory in April.

Fischer analyzing with Tal, Polugaevsky, Spassky, 1966

KASPAROV ON FISCHER

Despite the ugliness of his decline, Fischer deserves to be remembered for his chess and for what he did for chess. A generation of American players learned the game thanks to Fischer and he should continue to inspire future generations as a model of excellence, dedication, and achievement. There is no moral at the end of the tragic fable, nothing contagious in need of quarantine. Bobby Fischer was one of a kind, his failings as banal as his chess was brilliant.

—Garry Kasparov, NY Times, 2011